

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00100 281309Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

H-02 OMB-01 /071 W

-----281426Z 008232 /46

R 281223Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 100

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: UUUC STEERING COMMITTEE TO QUESTION THREE

"NO-CONFIDENCE" ABSTAINERS

1. THE UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET MARCH 29 AND IS EXPECTED TO DEMAND EXPLANATIONS OF THREE UUUC MEMBERS PARLIAMENT WHO ABSTAINED IN LAST WEDNESDAY WESTMINSTER VOTE INSTEAD OF OBEYING WHIP TO VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT. THE THREE, ENOCH POWELL, SOUTH DOWN, HAROLD MC CUSKER, SOUTH ARMAGH AND JOHN CARSON, NORTH BELFAST COULD FACE EXPULSION FROM UUUC HENCE DENIAL COALITION ENDORSEMENT IN CONSTITUENCIES IN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

2. LOYALIST UNIONIST OPINION IS QUITE DIVIDED ABOUT THESE ABSTENTIONS. POLITICIANS REALIZE THAT ULSTER VOTES COULD NOT HAVE AFFECTED OUTCOME AFTER LIBERAL DECISION TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER THERE THOSE WHO BELIEVE UNIONIST VOTE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOLID PROTEST AGAINST "SOCIALIST" GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY DIRECT RULE AND SECURITY POLICY, WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE SHOW OF MODERATION DID NO HARM. THERE  
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NO RPT NO STRONG BELIEF THAT ULSTER UNIONISTS WOULD BENEFIT MORE FROM CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT THAN FROM LABOUR. UUUC WILL BE MOST CAREFUL IN DISCIPLINING ABSTAINERS. SOUTH ARMAGH AND SOUTH DOWN SEATS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO LOSS SHOULD UNIONISTS FAIL TO AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATE. MC CUSKER MIGHT ACCEPT WITHDRAWAL OF ENDORSEMENT BUT IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE ENOCH POWELL WOULD RUN AS INDEPENDENT SPLITTING UNIONIST VOTE

AND OPENING DOOR TO VICTORY FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR  
PARTY OR ANOTHER CANDIDATE FROM MINORITY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Subject:** UUUC STEERING COMMITTEE TO QUESTION THREE "NO-CONFIDENCE" ABSTAINERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, UK, EI, UUUC, (MCCUSKER, HAROLD), (POWELL, ENOCH), (CARSON, JOHN)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009